



## ANALYZE: ART

Below is a work by Natalie Pettis, produced in 1957. Ask questions like the ones below to help you interpret art.

### What does this work communicate?

This work conveys a feeling of restlessness as the growers all wait anxiously to bring their fruit into the market. The gloomy skies above the market heighten the anxiety of the men waiting to enter the market before the rain arrives. When this work was produced in 1957, the market was a national center for produce exchange; and represented the life-force of this region. At the time, the city of Benton Harbor discussed moving the market away from the downtown area in order to expand and improve the market facilities. A sharp line separates the men in the foreground from the activity within the market. This line symbolically distances the farmers from the market activity—perhaps suggesting the restless and helpless feelings some growers felt when the market move was proposed.

### What does this work depict?

This work represents the Benton Harbor Fruit Market. We notice the traffic control booth on the right, and the growers waiting to enter the market in the foreground. In the center of the frame, we notice a truck filled with fruit backing into a stall where the fruit will be sold.



### What is the media and style of this work?

The artist used pastel chalks on paper to produce this work. Her style is representational. We would call this work *naturalistic*, because it shows a recognizable scene but does not display firm details—notice that some of the figures appear blurry, or blend into the background.